

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A method and apparatus to provide multicast support on a network device. The network device receives an incoming multicast packet, the multicast packet comprising an incoming multicast header and packet data. The packet data is  
5 stored at the network device. A plurality of outgoing multicast headers are generated based on the incoming multicast header. Each outgoing multicast header of the plurality of outgoing multicast headers is attached to the packet data to create a plurality of outgoing multicast packets without making multiple copies of the packet data.

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